

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Shepard Building 255 Westminster Street Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400 www.ride.ri.gov

Deborah A. Gist Commissioner

August 19, 2009

TO: All Superintendents

FROM: Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner

SUBJECT: National Missing Children's Day poster contest for 5th-graders

In order to honor the exemplary efforts of agencies, organizations, and individuals who protect children, the U.S. Department of Justice annually commemorates National Missing Children's Day. Part of this event is a national poster contest for 5th-grade students. The contest provides teachers with the tools to educate children and parents about safety and to initiate conversations regarding prevention.

The contest opens on September 1st, with a deadline of January 13th, 2010. Information about the contest is available from the Justice Department, at: http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/programs/postercontest The state program manager and contact for this contest is Steve Loynds, of the Rhode Island State Police (sloynds@risp.dps.ri.gov).

I encourage you to notify your elementary-school principals and art educators about this worthwhile project.